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SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Lasius brunneus* (Latreille) (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in Somerset.**—*Lasius brunneus* is now known from a number of counties in southern England and Wales. This Nationally Scarce species is common in the Severn Vale and has been found twice in Wiltshire (Alexander & Taylor, 1997; Blacker & Collingwood, 2002; pers. obs.). However, it has not previously been reported from nearby Somerset, despite searches (Collingwood, pers. comm.).

Ants were found on *Fraxinus excelsior* L. and *Tilia cordata* Mill. in Weston Big Wood, Portishead (ST455751; VC6 North Somerset), 10 June 2006. These were immediately recognised as *L. brunneus*, though a few were collected and later confirmed as such. It is likely that this species occurs elsewhere in Somerset but has so far been overlooked.—MIKE J. LUSH, Just Ecology, Woodend House, Woodend, Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire, GL12 8AA, U.K.

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